

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/056,149

Examiner

Brian L. Albertalli

Applicant(s)

ITOH ET AL.

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04 May 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 13-14, filed May 4, 2005, with respect to claims 1-20 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-20 have been withdrawn.

However, the examiner would note that Chen (U.S. Patent 6,067,514) is a proper reference, because Chen is available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Chen was published more than one year prior to the U.S. filing date of the present application. 35 U.S.C. 103(c) only applies when the prior art was used in an obviousness rejection and only qualifies under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e), (f), or (g).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian K. Buchheit (Reg. No. 52,667) on July 14, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 3, line 4, after "including" delete the word "in".

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In claim 11, line 1, after "program" add --embodied on a computer readable medium--.

In claim 12, line 1, after "program" add --embodied on a computer readable medium--.

In claim 13, line 1, after "program" add --embodied on a computer readable medium--.

In claim 14, line 1, after "program" add --embodied on a computer readable medium--.

In claim 15, line 1, after "program" add --embodied on a computer readable medium--.

In claim 16, line 1, after "program" add --embodied on a computer readable medium--.

In claim 17, line 1, after "storage" add --medium--.

In claim 18, line 1, after "storage" add --medium--.

In claim 19, line 1, after "storage" add --medium--.

In claim 20, line 1, after "storage" add --medium--.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose, and would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art, in combination with the other limitations of independent claims 1, 7, 11, and 17, the limitation of automatically removing disfluencies from an output word sequence with a first language model especially prepared for expressions unique to spontaneous speech (such as "uh", "er", "umm", etc.) together with a second model that differs from the first language model. Although the use of language models especially prepared for spontaneous speech to remove disfluencies from a word sequence is known in the prior art, utilizing a language model especially prepared for spontaneous speech together with another different language model to remove disfluencies is not known or suggested in the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian L. Albertalli whose telephone number is (571) 272-7616. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, every second Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BLA 7/14/05


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER